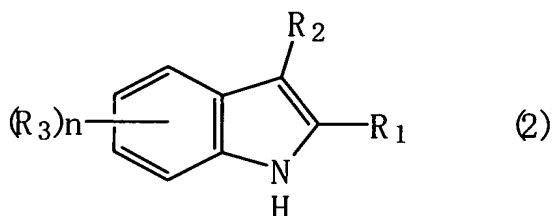


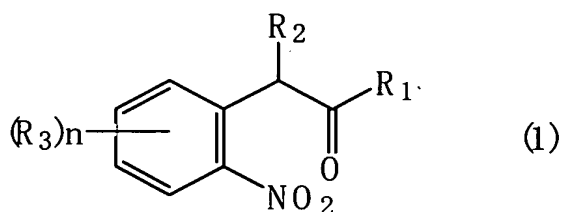
Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing an indole compound of formula (2)



wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently of each other hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, a phenyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group or an acyl group, R_3 is an optionally substituted alkyl group, a phenyl group, an alkoxy group, a benzyloxy group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, a nitro group or a halogen atom, and n is an integer of 0 to 4, ~~characterized by using wherein carbon monoxide is used when 2-nitrobenzylcarbonyl 2-nitrobenzylcarbonyl~~ compound of formula (1)



wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and n have the same meaning as the above, is reduced in the presence of a complex catalyst comprising a Group VIII metal of the Periodic Table.

2. (Currently Amended) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 1, wherein the complex catalyst comprising a Group VIII metal of the Periodic Table is a metal complex catalyst selected from an iron catalyst, a ruthenium catalyst, a palladium catalyst, a cobalt catalyst, a rhodium catalyst, a nickel catalyst and a platinum catalyst.

3. (Currently Amended) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 1, wherein the complex catalyst comprising a Group VIII metal of the Periodic Table is a metal complex catalyst selected from an iron catalyst, a ruthenium catalyst, a palladium catalyst and a platinum catalyst.

4. (Currently Amended) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 1, wherein the complex catalyst comprising a Group VIII metal of the Periodic Table is an iron or ruthenium complex catalyst in which carbon monoxide is coordinated.

5. (Currently Amended) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 1, wherein the complex catalyst comprising a Group VIII metal of the Periodic Table is a palladium ~~catalyst~~ or platinum complex catalyst in which phosphine type ligand is coordinated.

6. (Currently Amended) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently of each other hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group or an acyl group, R_3 is an optionally substituted alkyl group or a halogen atom, and n is an integer of 0 to 4, of 0 to 4.

7. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is methyl group, R_2 is hydrogen atom, an alkoxycarbonyl group or an acyl group, R_3 is a halogen atom, and n is an integer of 0 or 1.

8. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is methyl group, R_2 is hydrogen atom, R_3 is fluorine atom, and n is an integer of 0 or 1.

9. (Currently Amended) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 2, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently of each other hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group or an acyl group, R_3 is an optionally substituted alkyl group or a halogen atom, and n is an integer ~~of 0 to 4~~, of 0 to 4.

10. (Currently Amended) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 3, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently of each other hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group or an acyl group, R_3 is an optionally substituted alkyl group or a halogen atom, and n is an integer ~~of 0 to 4~~, of 0 to 4.

11. (Currently Amended) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 4, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently of each other hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group or an acyl group, R_3 is an optionally substituted alkyl group or a halogen atom, and n is an integer ~~of 0 to 4~~, of 0 to 4.

12. (Currently Amended) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 5, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently of each other hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group or an acyl group, R_3 is an optionally substituted alkyl group or a halogen atom, and n is an integer ~~of 0 to 4~~, of 0 to 4.

13. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 2, wherein R_1 is methyl group, R_2 is hydrogen atom, an alkoxycarbonyl group or an acyl group, R_3 is a halogen atom, and n is an integer of 0 or 1.

14. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 3, wherein R_1 is methyl group, R_2 is hydrogen atom, an alkoxycarbonyl group or an acyl group, R_3 is a halogen atom, and n is an integer of 0 or 1.

15. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 4, wherein R_1 is methyl group, R_2 is hydrogen atom, an alkoxycarbonyl group or an acyl group, R_3 is a halogen atom, and n is an integer of 0 or 1.

16. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 5, wherein R_1 is methyl group, R_2 is hydrogen atom, an alkoxycarbonyl group or an acyl group, R_3 is a halogen atom, and n is an integer of 0 or 1.

17. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 2, wherein R_1 is methyl group, R_2 is hydrogen atom, R_3 is fluorine atom, and n is an integer of 0 or 1.

18. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 3, wherein R_1 is methyl group, R_2 is hydrogen atom, R_3 is fluorine atom, and n is an integer of 0 or 1.

19. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 4, wherein R_1 is methyl group, R_2 is hydrogen atom, R_3 is fluorine atom, and n is an integer of 0 or 1.

20. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 5, wherein R_1 is methyl group, R_2 is hydrogen atom, R_3 is fluorine atom, and n is an integer of 0 or 1.